

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

No. 33

AUGUST, 1923

Price 4d.

OUT OF THE RUT

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

Labour electioneers owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. T. Summerbell, of Sunderland, for several of the specialities he has introduced to aid them in their endeavours. The frontispiece election address at the last election had a good vogue amongst Labour candidates, and now Mr. Summerbell comes along with quite the most arresting and effective frontispiece that has yet been produced for an election address in either Parliamentary or Municipal elections. We shall have pleasure in illustrating this next month, and it will at once be seen that the picture is one that he who runs may read, and its simple narrative and moral are evident even to the most unsophisticated elector. The artist, too, is to be congratulated upon the natural and life-like character of his figures. We understand that Mr. Summerbell is able to supply a stereo of the block cut at the corner to take a photo of the candidate for 15/—or, of course, to print the election address with the frontispiece included. We ourselves are strong believers in the value of illustration and would unhesitatingly say that the frontispiece adds 100 per cent. to the value and effectiveness of any election address issued. We should advise Labour electioneers to take this tip and to use this block for the coming municipal elections, for which it has been specially produced.

To clear £340 at one effort surely approaches a record for raising money for local party purposes within the Labour movement. The sum named has recently been raised by the Newport Labour Party in a sweepstake which was run among the members of the Labour Club. We gather that the total takings were £420 6s. 6d., the expenses amounting to about £82. Not a single ticket was sent outside the town, and the members of the Newport Labour Club have certainly shown that they have a sporting sense and a knowledge of how to put it to the Party's use. Recently, while at Newport, we had the pleasure of inspecting the magnifi-

cent new premises of the Newport Labour Party and going over the elegant new hall recently built and now being finished in quite admirable style, with first-class parquet floor, modern heating, and other arrangements to match. The club premises also house the office of Mr. W. B. Lewcock, the Labour agent, whose guiding hand is to be seen in the results achieved.

Several Labour organisations have recently adapted the "railway" ticket idea for the purpose of making their announcements. Unless over-done, there are few more effective or cheaper means of announcing a special event than by scattering a few thousand "railway" tickets, particularly if these are printed, as is mostly the case, on cards tinted in two or more colours, or coloured in other ways to resemble actual rail tickets. The York Labour Party, always to the front in these things, announced its August Garden Fete in this way, while the Liverpool Trades Union week was also boomed in similar manner with a double-tinted ticket which is worth producing here. We understand that fifty thousand of these tickets were printed and went exceptionally well.

FRONT

MAY 28, 1923	Liverpool Trades Union Week Railway	JUNE 2, 1923
	FROM	
	SWEATED CONDITIONS	
	TO	
	GOOD WAGES AND INDUSTRIAL PROSPERITY	
	via Joining-up Junction	
	FIRST SINGLE	No Returns Issued on this line. [P.T.O.]

BACK

Liverpool Trades Union Week, 1923
ADMIT ONE to the Great
Trades Union Demonstration
STADIUM (Pudsey St., Liverpool)
SATURDAY, JUNE 2nd, at 7-30 p.m.
Speakers: Alderman ROBINSON (Chair), Mr. ROBERT WILLIAMS, A. A. PURCELL, Mrs. M. BAMBER.
ROLL UP AND JOIN UP!

We note with pleasure that the East Islington Labour Party have now secured headquarters at 16, Highbury Grove. The property, which is substantially built and in good condition, has been secured at a figure over £2,000. It occupies a splendid position facing Highbury Fields, and it is probable that nowhere in or near London has a local Labour Party yet succeeded in securing such commodious or serviceable premises. Comfortably-sized indoor meetings can be held, while the spacious grounds can be used for accommodating quite a large crowd or for holding outdoor functions. The property comprises fifteen rooms, thus giving ample accommodation for the many ramifications which a live Labour Party nowadays extends to. The financial call upon the Party will be, we understand, not much more than their present commitments, while the revenue-producing capacity of the premises is much greater than that of the present headquarters. We heartily congratulate the prime movers of this scheme whose efforts have been crowned with success.

Can anyone tell us in what way the 18th Annual Conference held at London in June, 1918, has got itself so soon into an atmosphere of oblivion? Some time ago, chatting with a highly-placed officer of the Party, the fact that such a conference was ever held was actually denied, while the opening words of Mr. Sidney Webb's address at the recent London Conference were, "It is just ten years since the Annual Conference of the Labour Party was last held in London." As a matter of fact, two conferences were held at London in 1918. The first London Conference was an adjournment of the 17th Annual Conference from Nottingham. The second conference held in London that year was, however, the first under the new dispensation by which the Annual Conference was changed from January to June. This London Conference was styled the 18th Annual Conference, and the first election of officers under the constitution took place thereat. We have in our hands as we write the official report of same published at 1/-. What has happened? The London Conference under notice was noted for the famous Kerensky incident.

THE NEW REGISTER TO BE READY FOR OCTOBER 1st.

IMPORTANT POINT FOR THE BOROUGH ELECTIONS.

The Home Office, as we go to press, has issued a circular to Registration Officers, containing the following important instruction. It will be seen that while the point stressed is not new, a specific date, namely, October 1st, is now mentioned (that is, 15 days before publication) on which the Autumn Register, on which the Municipal Elections are fought, should be issued to the political organisations. The concession is a highly convenient one for all concerned, except, perhaps, the printer.

"It is desired to call the attention of the Registration Officer to the remarks under Heading No. 7 in the circular letter of the 14th May, 1920, R.P. 96, relating to the supply of copies of the new register to agents of political organisations and others before the date on which it comes into force. In the case of municipal boroughs it is important, in view of the municipal elections on the 1st November, that the copies of the Autumn Register should be available at the earliest possible date, and the Secretary of State hopes that the Registration Officer will arrange that the new register for all boroughs in his area shall be ready, and be supplied to persons requiring it, by the 1st of October, or as soon as possible thereafter.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient Servant,

"A. J. EAGLESTON."

"THE GREAT LABOUR BALLOT"

We understand that quite remarkable success is attending the big scheme organised by the Whitechapel and St. George's Labour Party. Over 250 local Labour Parties have taken up the scheme, and we gather that nearly three thousand books of forty tickets each are already in circulation. The basis of the scheme is a Co-operative one, and it appears that tickets now out, if sold, will benefit the local parties actually to the extent of £3,000. Tickets everywhere appear to be going in excellent fashion, and many local

parties look like making a good deal. These are scattered in such widely-separated places as Woolwich, Reading, Stafford, Deptford, Colchester, Dundee, East Rhondda, Newcastle, Keighley, York, Poplar, Manchester, Gorton, Stoke-on-Trent, Perth, etc. The closing date with the Ballot has not yet been fixed. We believe the date will be found to be about the close of the year, so that there is yet plenty of time for quite a large extension of the scheme.

No. 1

OF THE

Labour Organiser

In response to many requests No. 1 of the Labour Organiser has now been reprinted and is obtainable at the usual price, viz., Single Copy, 4d., post free 4½d.

No. 1 was issued as a type-written, duplicated journal, and is now issued in ordinary form for the convenience of those desiring to keep or bind their copies. A peculiar interest attaches to this copy.

Send at once. A limited number only printed.

Usual terms for quantities.

SOME REPORTS AND BALANCE SHEETS

INTERESTING DETAILS ABOUT LOCAL LABOUR PARTIES.

The report of the Aberdeen Trades and Labour Council contains some interesting data as to the progress of Labour in the granite city, where, owing to the efforts of the Party, Frank H. Rose, M.P., increased his majority last November by over four thousand votes. The report shows that this success was paralleled in the Local Government Elections, and Labour in Aberdeen is undoubtedly prospering. We were interested to note that steps have been taken during the past year to improve the electoral machinery and give greater powers and responsibility to Ward Committees. An endeavour is apparently being made to get these important bodies systematically at work with a due sense of their responsibility both financially and in respect to consolidating the Party's position. The Aberdeen Trades and Labour Council is an amalgamated Labour Party and Trades Council. We gather that the full scheme of amalgamation became operative last year, since when administration has been much easier, and a greater interest has been taken by delegates in the work of the Council. Attendance has also much improved. Political and industrial questions are discussed with a keenness and tolerance that reflect credit on the delegates. Societies may by rule under certain circumstances claim exemption from political payments, but the number so affiliated is comparatively small. Every encouragement is given to delegates from "exempted Unions" to take part in the debates, although, of course, they are not entitled to vote on any political issue. Workers in many other parts of the country will be interested in the successful working of such much-advocated amalgamations.

The balance sheet of the Ludlow Divisional Labour Party is of interest to many outside the Division, covering as it does the funds raised for the recent by-election. It is interesting to note that no less a sum than £207 19s. 6d. was transferred to the by-election account from the general

fund, and this sum is surely a highly creditable one, even making allowance for the exceptional generosity of one donor. The Ludlow Division is also now well on the road to prosperity, and sturdy organisations have been established in several parts of the Division. It is expected that this month the appointment of Mr. F. Roberts, who has been acting as agent for some time, will be made permanent.

The balance sheet of the Sowerby Divisional Labour Party contains a useful innovation. Opposite the names and fees of each organisation is placed the number of members. Fifty organisations make a total membership of 6,367, these, of course, being apart from the local membership of men's and women's sections. Similar information would be of use in the returns of other parties, many of whom, unfortunately, cover up their actual membership with vague statements as to the number of persons they "represent." The actual figures leave no room for challenge. We note that steps are being taken to promote a newspaper, though actual publication has not yet commenced. We note also with pleasure that Mr. Mark Crossley is still continuing as agent, despite the loss of support from the Textile Factory Workers.

The Nottingham Borough Labour Party does not disclose so large an affiliation fee as one would expect, the sum realised being £176 4s. 7d. It does, however, show the somewhat unique feature of a profit on an election fund and evidence of wise and careful expenditure during the year. A statement of assets and liabilities, always a most desirable feature, is incorporated in the financial statement, and shows a substantial balance of assets, thus disclosing that the Nottingham Labour Party has emerged from the wood which has hampered its actions for the last two or three years. We have been pleased to note that Nottingham has now opened new central premises at 15, Hanley Street, and that Mr. R. Bury has been appointed full-time agent.

The Huddersfield Labour Party's annual report is beautifully duplicated and very interesting in detail. To fall short by 206 votes after a poll of

15,673 is undoubtedly disappointing, but one turns from such a result with expectation that is not disappointed to find the annual report disclosing a vigorous and aggressive Party whose energy is reflected not only in the wording of the report, but in the figures of the balance sheet. In many respects the accounts are a model for other parties. The various funds are clear and well-defined, and the account-keeping appears to be exceptional. At the same time the figures handled are worth while, and on every hand one notices that substantial sums have been received, and no means left untried for raising them. Thus, collecting boxes total £33, collecting cards £62, collections at election meetings £118, individual subscriptions £48, subscriptions from outside the borough £209, grants from affiliated societies £107, and so forth. There appears to be a weakness in affiliation fees which only total £41, but the grants from affiliated societies for various purposes nevertheless reach nearly £200, so the criticism is not one that can have much weight. We believe that most of the success shown is due to the energetic agent, Mr. Wilfred Whiteley.

Labour Organisers

Should write at once
for a copy of the new
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on

Co-operation and Allied Subjects

Published by the
Co-operative Union.

They should at the
same time order a
copy of

The Political Aspect of Co-operation

By

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Holyoake House, Han-
over Street, Manchester.

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE.

HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

With the Municipal Elections drawing near, some hundreds of local parties will be busy with their preparations for the forthcoming contests. There is an increasing tendency to select candidates well in advance, all of which is to the good, and should tend to considerably cheapen the actual election campaign. It is true that interest in municipal politics is at all times a difficult thing to arouse, but town dwellers cannot put forward the corn harvest and other serious excuses that may be urged in the countryside for political neglect just now. There certainly ought to be advantage taken of the remaining weeks of summer time to get in a good outdoor campaign on behalf of the candidates. The least that will be achieved will be publicity for the candidates. Workers are, however, almost bound to be found if there is any system in the conduct of the meetings. The general advertisement of the Party's programme and proposals will also help to drive home the distinction between Labour Municipal programmes and any others.

Now is the time to thrash out the points that will be given prominence as the election comes nearer and to lay plans for speakers, canvasses and literature distribution. We hear of some towns that have already attempted a Parliamentary canvass on behalf of their candidates, and this betokens the interest that is likely to be taken in the coming elections. In many places we are likely to see a revival of Labour successes, for the last three years have failed to give us that measure of success which the continued progress of the Party would lead us to expect. Special causes have, of course, been at work, but on this occasion familiarity with the lessons and defeats of other elections should urge an energy and activity that will bring success.

The coming winter ought to see strenuous efforts on the part of local Labour Parties in the field of propaganda. The indications of the past seem to show that we are getting nearer to the time when elections will be fought on the pure Socialist issue. There is yet tremendous leeway to be made both in familiarising the public

with the name of Socialism (which is as yet a bogey to them), and with the implications and practical issues of our creed. The time has gone by when elections could be fought on the avoidance of the issue, and whatever may have been the case ten or fifteen years ago, Labour proposals are to-day mostly based on clear-cut Socialist principle, and because of this, exposition should be insistently carried out, and every effort made to show that it is not the Labour Party who wish to hide their flag. As in the case of the Capital Levy, what was thought to be unpopular will prove the reverse, and we believe that those candidates who stand by the foundations of their belief will do the best at the polls and do most for the Party's progress. Let's all be Socialists!

Propaganda, to be really successful, should be constant and continuous as well as aggressive. We do not believe the best results are obtained by fits and starts, or casual meetings. There ought to be no important district in the country without at least one regular weekly meeting for propagandist purpose. Nor need these be camouflaged under the name of Labour Churches, etc. It has long been discovered that this type of meeting tends to become academic and to be attended principally by the converted. Propaganda meetings should have the drive of the Party's power behind them, and a good part of its organising energy should be put into them. It is in this way that live parties can be built up and the material found for organising victory. In this matter it is as well not to forget the young. Special meetings for young people are as yet a novelty in Labour propaganda. There is plenty of room for local parties to distinguish their efforts by a spice of novelty and originality in this direction. While we are waiting for some of the old stick-in-the-muds to die we might as well seek after the younger generation!

Many secretaries find that the accumulation of papers they wish to keep leads ultimately, owing to the lack of proper filing material, to a glorious muddle, and a final bonfire, and with

it goes many useful documents they would like to have kept. Plain manilla folders are simple devices, but are not wholly satisfactory in a secretary's front room, where, in use, the papers are apt to fly about and get mixed or lost. What is wanted is some kind of binder, or loose-leaf cover, and these are discovered to be fairly expensive. A useful home-made loose-leaf cover can, however, be made for a copper or two, and we ourselves use several home-made devices. Let us assume it is desired to bind a number of documents of the size of an ordinary quarto letter heading. Procure from any printer a royal (20ins. by 25ins.) manilla board, for which he will charge two or three pence. Five inches might be cut off the long end, though not thrown away, for many uses can be discovered for this offcut. The board, which is now 20ins. by 20ins., should be cut directly in half, leaving two strips, 20ins. by 10ins. each. This should be folded exactly in half. Now bend the covers inside-out, folding one inch from the centre crease, so that they now form a V fold one inch deep in the centre. If now the covers are bent back again one inch from the last crease it will be found that they are exactly 8ins. by 10ins., while inside there is a double lip in the shape of the letter "M." The papers are kept in the "V" of the "M" and the cover admits of considerable expansion. It is assumed that a double perforator is available which will punch a double hole in all papers to be filed, and if a corresponding double hole is punched through the letter M of the folder, one has now an effective and strong loose-leaf binder that will last quite a long time in regular use. The papers may be strung either through the holes with tape, or a couple of long paper fasteners may be used.

We note with interest that Ald. W. T. Jackson, of Manchester, is the Lord Mayor elect for that city for the coming year. Mr. Jackson has for thirty years been associated with Labour life in Manchester, and has attained a great popularity and reputation as a sound and able administrator. Mr. Jackson is the secretary of the Manchester Borough Labour Party, and a member of the National Association of Labour Registration and Election Agents.

THE SECRET HISTORY OF A GREAT BETRAYAL

By E. D. MOREL, M.P. for Dundee.
Editor "Foreign Affairs"

(Obtainable from the U.D.C.; Orchard House, Great Smith Street, S.W.1.)

Third Edition, Price 1/-

What Mr. Ramsay MacDonald says :-

"I hope you will manage to get the widest circulation for the 'Great Betrayal.' Until the peoples understand something more about the origin of the War and cease to base moral antagonism against any one State upon a purely fanciful set of 'facts,' they will not attain to a frame of mind which will enable them to do justice in their reparations and other peace arrangements. The dirty fingers of the war propagandist besmirch every page of the Versailles Treaty, and Europe to-day is paying the penalty. The man who can get the people to understand the truth of pre-1914 diplomacy is the man who is to get them to make just settlements to-day. The 'Great Betrayal' puts the case clearly and authoritatively and should be widely studied."

What Senator Borah says :-

"My dear Mr. Morel,
"I have just finished reading your pamphlet entitled 'The Secret History of a Great Betrayal.'

"It is the severest indictment of a vicious system in foreign affairs which it has ever been my pleasure to read. You are entitled to the commendation of your fellow-men for the ability and the courage with which you are exposing the infamous system by which millions of people are thrown into war through the intrigues and secret diplomatic manœuvring of a few men.—Very sincerely,
W.M. E. BORAH.

By the same Author :

"The Poison that Destroys"

5th Edition, 2d.

"Military Preparation for the Great War" 6d.

LAW AND PRACTICE.

[Under this heading are found brief and chatty explanations of points of commoner interest concerning the Law and Practice of Elections. Readers are invited to suggest points for notice herein, but are reminded that suggestions made may not necessarily be dealt with in the next issue.—Ed.]

HOW SECRECY IS MAINTAINED IN THE POLLING BOOTH.

Faith in the absolute secrecy of the ballot box has always been a difficult thing to establish, though that is not for want of good intention and wise provision on the part of the framers of the Ballot Act. Short of dispensing with human agency altogether, the Ballot Act does almost everything that could be done to insure the inviolability of the ballot, but it is, of course, just on this rock that the best laid schemes of men "gang agley." Perhaps the framers of future measures will provide for machine voting that will dispose altogether of the one great risk which voters run—that of reliance on the honesty of the human factor in the ballot.

Notwithstanding what has been said, proved acts of deliberate misuse of trust have been very rare, though there is undoubtedly an uneasy feeling, which is widely held, that the elaborate machinery of the Ballot Act can be, and is, set at nought wherever two men, i.e., the Presiding Officer and the Poll Clerk, desire to conspire together to permit or to perpetrate malpractices.

The procedure for taking a poll is laid down with minute exactitude in the Ballot Act rules, the effect of which gives the presiding officer very substantial powers for the purpose of keeping order at his station. In the first place, voting must take place at specified places publicly announced, and very definite and convenient arrangements for conducting the poll under suitable arrangements within a room are laid down.

The presiding officer is assisted by a clerk, and the duties of both officers are prescribed with great detail. Wilful disobedience and improper acts in relation to the conduct of a poll may be severely punished, while the presiding officer has power also to order into custody persons who may seek to

upset or obstruct the lawful proceedings. The provision here mentioned is altogether apart from offences under the Corrupt Practices Acts which may be committed at the poll, such as personation.

We see, therefore, that the conduct of the poll is designed to insure secrecy and protection for the voter. The voter is also directed how to mark his ballot paper, and if he follows the directions laid down, neither the officials or any other persons ever see how he has marked his paper, and he may place same in the box, and thus so far, into the hands of fate, in complete safety. In order to insure also that not even the fact that he has voted shall be known, every officer, clerk and agent in attendance at a polling booth is instructed that he shall not communicate, except for some purpose authorised by law, before the poll is closed, to any person any information as to the name or number on the register of voters of any elector, who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at that station. Incidentally it should be noted that this provision acts as a prohibition on the intention of personation agents who sometimes want to take information of this character out of the polling booth for the use of their committee rooms.

Every person in attendance at the polling booth, either as presiding officer, clerk or personation agent, is sworn to secrecy, and the section of the Ballot Act applicable, which contains very minute details as to acts which may be taken as infringements of secrecy, must be read over to the declarant. The penalty for any infringement of secrecy is imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

It should be noted that it is an offence for any person whomsoever to interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when marking his vote. This provision needs much stricter enforcement. It is frequently the case that parties conveyed to the poll are overlooked inside the booth and endeavours made to see that they vote in accordance with their promise. This is a gross abuse and an offence. An independent voter folding up his ballot paper and placing same in the box and so asserting the secrecy of the ballot would nevertheless very often throw himself open to suspicion. It

should be the presiding officer's duty to prevent any sort of espionage, but it is a case once again of the human element breaking down, if, as so often happens, the officials are strong partisans and disposed to neglect their duty. It should, of course, be added that the blind or illiterate voter is in the hands of the officials who mark his form for him. Nevertheless in these instances the polling booth, if instructions are followed, should be cleared before the vote is taken. Perhaps here again this is an elaborate provision with the best intentions which goes wrong.

After the poll is closed and the ballot boxes properly sealed, the risks of discovery as to how an individual voter has voted are practically nil. It is still possible, of course, to trace an individual vote on a scrutiny, but special reasons must be assigned, and precautions are taken so that in effect only those who may have fraudulently or improperly voted run any risk of their vote being brought to the light of day. At no ordinary count is it ever possible to identify a voter or ascertain how any person has voted.

Two useful little booklets which contain the duties of presiding officers and poll clerks are:—"Handbook for Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks at Parliamentary Elections," and "Handbook for the Conduct of Polls at Local Government Elections." Both are published at 1/- nett by Charles Knight and Co., and should be on the shelf of every local party secretary or agent concerned in running elections.

BACK COPIES OF THE LABOUR ORGANISER

SEND TWO SHILLINGS

SPECIAL NOTICE!—To every Local Labour Party secretary or agent sending 2/- we will dispatch a parcel containing a really varied and helpful assortment of back copies of the "Labour Organiser," together with an attractive poster for display. These copies being overprintings from certain numbers only, parcels cannot be made up to order. It is also a condition of sale that distribution shall be strictly confined to officers and members of Local Labour Parties.

REVIEWS

"Trades Unionism, Past and Present."
By Mark Starr. Price 6d. The
Plebs League, 162a, Buckingham
Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

This admirably-written booklet does not purport to be a history, still less, thank goodness, a mere chronology of outstanding events in the life and development of Trades Unionism. It is, instead, a readable and connected story which conveys with considerable conviction and force the main points of the story of the rise, hopes and battles and the victories of Trades Unionism, together with some very thoughtful chapters on the future aims and development of what George Hicks, in the foreword, describes as "the only movement that matters—that of the working class."

Mark Starr belongs to the younger school of Labour thinkers and writers, and in "A Worker Looks at History" he displayed a vigour, ability and knowledge of his subject which commanded and obtained for him an attention not always accorded to young writers on economic questions. We do not always agree with Mark Starr in his conclusions, nor, indeed, do we agree with some of the conclusions in the book under notice, particularly wherein he advocates the revival of Trades Councils—an out-of-date form of local working-class organisation, which is at the root of local paralysis in more than one place. "Trades Unionism, Past and Present," does, however, convey to the young worker or to the new recruit a very exact story of Trades Union development in its essentials up to the present day, and even the seasoned reader of Socialist and Labour bibliography will find that a fresh mind presents and impels fresh thoughts. And we have not done learning yet.

"Capitalism in the Pillory." Labour Speeches in Support of Mr. Snowden's Motion in the House of Commons. Price 3d. The T.U.C. and Labour Party.

This is essentially a propagandist's pamphlet and one for use among the thoughtful and enquiring. Personally, we would rather push the circulation of essentially Socialist literature like this at the present hour, than academic dis-

Like Oliver Twist we "ask for more"



TO enlist the mighty power of the Printing Press in its full force in the cause of Labour, is our problem. . We seek to expand and extend our work on behalf

of Labour, and to this end we are adding most up-to-date machinery, beautiful type-faces, and modern methods to our equipment. No Capitalist Press can shame us now, for the production of fine printing is our daily task.

We are grateful indeed to the Branch Secretaries whose printing orders have enabled us to plan these great improvements, but the printing requirements of the I.L.P. are not now sufficient to keep our machines running. So, like Oliver Twist, "we ask for more."

SO we seek the full support of Labour — we want the work of the great Trades Unions, Societies, and other Labour Organisations.

And we want the influence of Members of the I.L.P. in their Trades Unions to secure this work for us. To the shame of Labour, much of their work goes to Capitalist firms, and the profits to Capitalist pockets.

Here is Labour's opportunity to create the power in the land that the Press of the Labour Party should be — only thus can Labour hope to overcome the insidious propaganda that every Capitalist Press is putting out. Let the great Trades Unions support the National Labour Press, and in future struggles they will find a powerful ally.

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sertations in pamphlet form on isolated problems. The next general engagement will be fought on Socialist ground, and in this pamphlet we are well away in simple explanation and in the destruction of the bogey points with which opponents fight us in the absence of sheer reason on their side.

"The Labour Party on the Threshold."
By Sidney Webb (Chairman's Address to the Labour Party Annual Conference). Price 2d. The Fabian Society.

Was it this pamphlet which created almost a record in publication by being presented and sold on the morning that the speech was delivered? At any rate, the chairman's address at the Labour Party Conference was an acknowledged triumph in the presentation of Labour's present-day attainment and aspirations. Its prophecy of power was not so much a prophecy as a portend, and the plain and dignified language conveys with it a conviction of strength as well as of argument that will make it for some time a useful pamphlet in the hands of the literature seller and propagandist.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Correspondents are required to give their full name and address, not, however, necessarily for publication. Replies from general correspondents cannot be given through the post. It is imperative that where a reply depends on a statement of fact (such, for instance, as qualification of an elector to be on the register), the fullest information should be given.

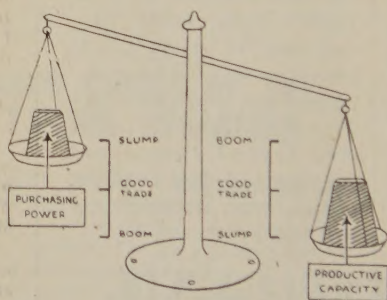
A TEETOTAL CLUB AS COMMITTEE ROOMS.

Question.—If a Labour Party has a club at which teas, tobacco and soft drinks are sold, can that club be used as a committee room during an election if the premises are closed as a club and used simply and solely as a committee room?

Answer.—On the facts stated we do not think the above rooms can be legitimately used as a committee room. The Corrupt Practices Acts apparently never contemplated the existence of a teetotal club, and the above premises could not be classed as a permanent

CURE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

THE NATIONAL SCALES



1. "We must get good trade to cure unemployment."

2. "To get good trade we must make the 'purchasing power' equal to the productive capacity."

3. "To increase the 'purchasing power.' Slowly raise all wages and salaries. (Say 5 per cent. on September 1 as a beginning.)"

4. "We must not increase 'Wages and Salaries' after the scales balance: if we do, a boom will result with all its attendant troubles."

5. "About 25 per cent. of our 'Productive Capacity' is exported and foreign goods are imported in exchange."

6. "The raising of wages and salaries will cause increased purchases of foreign goods (tea, sugar, etc.). These 'increased imports' will bring with them increased orders for our productions."

For Shirts and Overalls of quality call at one of our Branches, or write for catalogue to

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political club within the meaning of the Section making the prohibition.

The Act reads :—

"Any premises where any intoxicating liquor is sold or is supplied to members of a Club, Society or Association, other than a permanent political club, or

"Any premises whereon refreshments of any kind, whether food or drink, is ordinarily sold for consumption on the premises . . . shall not be used as a Committee Room for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of any candidate at an election. . . ."

It will be seen from the above that if intoxicating liquor was sold, the club premises might be used as committee rooms, but no such exemption exists for a permanent political club which merely supplies refreshment. The situation is paradoxical, but such is the law.

It is, of course, possible to use some part of the premises if same has a separate entrance and no direct communication with any part of the premises on which the refreshment is sold or supplied. It might also be safe to use the premises if it could be shown that the supply of refreshments was so casual that it could legitimately be claimed that they were not "ordinarily sold." There is no legal definition of the term "ordinarily," but it could not be supposed to extend to the mere use of premises for an occasional tea party or social event.

YOUNG LABOUR LEAGUE

The work of the Young Labour League has in several parts of the country attracted attention. We print below the rules of the Colchester Young Labour League, which will be read with interest by others who may be considering similar means of arousing the interest of youth.

COLCHESTER DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY.

1.—*Name.* The Colchester Young Labour League, affiliated to the Colchester Divisional Labour Party.

2.—*Membership.* Open to the sons and daughters of members of the Colchester Divisional Labour Party and such others who may be accepted for membership by the Executive of the Colchester Divisional Labour Party.

Members on reaching the age of eighteen shall be transferred to membership of the Divisional Party, but they may remain members of the League.

Any member acting against the interests of the Labour Party may be expelled from membership by the Executive of the Divisional Party.

3.—*Labour Party Club.* Members of the League may be permitted to join the Labour Party Club as junior members; such members must abide by the rules as drawn up by the Executive Committee of the Divisional Labour Party. Such members shall not have the right to vote at any meeting of club members.

4.—*Contributions.* The contribution to the League shall be 10/- per year, and members who are accepted for the Labour Party Club shall pay the following annual subscription in addition :—
Male Members.

Under 16 years of age, 2/- per annum

Over 16 years of age, 4/- per annum

Female Members.
Under 16 years of age, 1/- per annum

Over 16 years of age, 2/- per annum

5.—*Object.* To support the Colchester Divisional Labour Party and generally to promote the political, social and economic emancipation of the people.

To hold educational classes and meetings.

In conjunction with the Labour Party Club, to provide for the use of its members the means of social intercourse, mutual assistance, mental and moral improvement, and rational recreation.

6.—*Officers.* The League shall elect its own officers and committee who shall be empowered to make such further rules as may be necessary for its development and good government.

Passed by the Executive Committee of the Colchester Divisional Labour Party.

P. F. POLLARD.

August 2nd, 1923.

Secretary.

*What you save in Cash
you lose in Efficiency
unless all the officers of
your Party get the*

Labour Organiser

SOME HINTS ON BAZAARS AND MONEY RAISING.

A COUNTY AGENT TELLS HOW IT IS DONE.

By H. ATKINSON, *Agent,
Skipton Division.*

(SECOND ARTICLE.)

The Committee has now to decide how the preparation can best be done, and, where a group of sales are to be held, what co-operation is possible. In the latter case a small committee representative of all the districts should decide the merits and extent of co-operation along the following lines:—

- (a) Shall each sale be prepared and held separately in each town, with the joint committee as a consulting body for the exchange of ideas and information, and the co-operative buying of working materials where this is an advantage.
- (b) Shall all the work be pooled and the sales held in rotation with a small period between each for the replenishments of stocks.
- (c) Shall all the districts work for a single sale in one big centre.

The decision should be based on local circumstances, but (a) is recommended because it gives the advantages of consultation and co-operation in buying whilst leaving each district the stimulus of working for its own local effort in its own way. (b) entails considerable work in co-ordination and the solid advantage of this suggestion can be reaped by passing on the surplus to the next sale on turn without pooling. (c) is not advised because it will be found in practice that more enthusiastic work will be done for a local event and that relative to the size a smaller district will get better sale results.

Co-operation gives the advantage of wholesale instead of retail buying. Enquiry in the various districts will lead to a comparison of prices, samples and sources of supply. This applies almost entirely to materials for the Work Stall, and as a rule a committee of working women can be trusted to get value for money. It is not suggested that this joint committee shall do all the buying, but that it shall,

through its representatives, keep in touch with local purchasing committees and make joint purchases where benefit accrues. Some consideration must be given to the kind of materials and garments required. It is sheer waste to make articles beyond the means of our customers or unsuitable to their needs. Two years ago a Labour sale could sell a fancy blouse at 25/-, whilst to-day such an article is beyond the pockets of the workers who are now able to buy only articles giving the maximum utility at the lowest price.

Having decided these points and made initial purchases the local committees can get to work. No sale should be undertaken with less than four to six months' preparation for the Work Stall. Other stalls do not need so long to prepare. Each stall must be the responsibility of a separate committee, and for a beginning all the women suitable should concentrate on preparation for the Work Stall under the direction of the Work Stall Committee. It is the business of this committee to appoint the most suitable persons as buyers, cutters, pricers, etc. Experience counts, as every man knows when he wears his first home-made shirt! A centre for despatching, receiving and checking work is necessary, though the actual work can be done in part at sewing meetings and in part at the convenience (?) of the worker in her own home.

Within two months of the sale, committees for other stalls should be in action. Some of the women workers will be released from sewing and will transfer their attention to the refreshment arrangements. The men ought to be responsible for the preparation of Book, Jumble, Men's and Novelty Stalls, though it is advisable that some women be on these committees to stimulate them.

As soon as a date can be fixed for the sale a suitable hall must be booked for that date and for the day or evening before. An Arrangements Committee will be appointed to deal with advertising and the preparation of the hall. Preliminary notices of the event should be issued, schemes of advertising decided upon, an orchestra or band secured, and the hall planned out for the various stalls with suitable provision for the erection of these. Trestles and tables can be utilised for the latter, and a small expenditure on wood combined

THE GREAT LABOUR BALLOT

IN AID OF THE LOCAL LABOUR
PARTIES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Organised by the
Whitechapel and St. George's Labour Party.

2nd Prize

£100

Five Prizes of
£5 each

FIRST PRIZE

£250

3rd Prize

£50

25 Prizes of
£1 each

Tickets **1/-**

Obtainable through your
Local Labour Party

Tickets **1/-**

ALL PRIZE MONEY GUARANTEED.

Other Prizes will be announced later.

*Choose your own Labour Government and
Win **£250***

154 Goldhawk Road,
W.12,

July 3rd, 1923.

Dear Donoghue,

Many thanks for the second consignment of ballot tickets just received. I have already started issuing them. I get a little resentful when buyers call at my office while I am in the midst of registration work; but the results on Friday night remove all resentment and cheer me up. Sales are still keeping up.

Good luck to the Ballot!

Yours sincerely,

H. J. HAMILTON CARDWELL,

Agent Hammersmith Labour Party.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Local Labour Parties who have not yet received full details of this Great Co-operative Effort are requested to apply for same at once to S. J. Donoghue, Organising Sec., 138 Cannon St. Road, London, E.1

THE BALLOT IS QUITE LEGAL

with a little voluntary labour will convert them into stalls with back rails and canopies for the Work Stall, and other adjustments for other stalls. Decorations for draping the stalls and beautifying the hall must not be overlooked. In part these can be improvised and any necessary purchases can be utilised for all the sales.

Every Stall Committee should complete its work and arrangements in good time, not forgetting the appointment of stall attendants for the day of sale. Where sufficient workers are available attendants should be changed every two or three hours and a list of these changes attached to the stall and given to each attendant. The Arrangements Committee should be acquainted with the intentions of the various Stall Committees and it should in turn keep each committee informed of the arrangements made for it in the hall.

Despite good organisation matters needing decision will arise during the day of sale. To deal with these and for the purpose of general supervision on the day, two directors—a man and a woman—should be appointed, and all difficulties referred to them. Two cashiers should also be appointed, whose duty it will be to provide “change” to each stall before the proceedings begin, also periodically to remove the cash from the stalls and record all receipts. An admission charge should be made, but this should not be prohibitive thereby keeping customers outside. 3d. to 6d. is sufficient.

We have yet to discuss how the sale is to be financed. In the best interests of the sale it is an advantage not to have much capital, if any. To expend no capital but to earn necessary expenditure by means of special efforts as we proceed is the ideal method. Aim at paying all expenses before the sale so that the total proceeds are net profits. Hold whist drives, dances, suppers, toffee sales to meet necessary expenditure. Every shilling earned in this way is adding to the profits of the sale, just as every shilling spent from the funds or borrowed capital, is reducing the profits. To make a quick start with preparations it may be advisable to borrow a few pounds from the Party funds, but the method of earning should be adopted as well. A little ingenuity and enthusiasm will finance the preparations and keep the expenditure low.

A matter of at least equal importance is to ensure that our supporters and the sympathetic public shall have money to spend on the day of sale. Adequate advertising will bring along a number of “outside” buyers, but it is better for us to have some guarantee that the goods will be bought. Imagine the satisfaction of knowing on the eve of the sale that of the £150 worth of goods displayed, one-third or one-half of them are sold—or at any rate paid for. A Bazaar Committee the writer knows has £40 in the bank, the takings at its next effort in November or December, 1923! The success of that sale looks like being assured. How is it done? By the club system. Issue a printed Bazaar Club Card ruled for date, amount and collector. Accept sums of 3d. upwards weekly with or without the offer of an added percentage of 5 per cent. on the total paid in to within a month of the sale. This method of ensuring success is quite successful, especially so where the collection is made regularly. A week before the sale the cards should be called in and the amount subscribed paid out to the member in “paper money,” specially printed to act as currency for the occasion. This “money” is printed in various denominations from 1d. to 5/- on perforated cards totalling about 30/- each, so that any amount can be paid out and any change given at the stalls. It is most important for the cashier to see that each stall is furnished with “paper change” and instructed to give no other in exchange for “paper money.”

This revenue from the club can, of course, be encroached upon to meet expenditure, and this is often done. In case of necessity no objection can be raised, but it is wise to make a rigid rule which will make it impossible for this money to be expended until all other sources have been drained.

Mr. R. Bury, recently part-time agent at Nottingham, has now been appointed as full-time central secretary and agent. The Nottingham Labour Party has during the past year made considerable progress, and we trust that by-and-bye the movement may develop, where it has lagged behind somewhat, in taking its proper place among the foremost local Labour Parties of the country.

*A Handbook every
Labour Organiser
will find useful.*

TRADE UNIONISM PAST & FUTURE

By MARK STARR

(Author of "A Worker Looks at History")

Foreword by GEO. HICKS (A.U.B.T.A.)

40 pages 6d.

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A "potted" history of the British working-class movement, with a summary of present-day problems and probable developments.

Send 1/- (mention "Labour Organiser") and we will forward the above and also a copy of the current issue of

THE PLEBS

*Organ of the Labour
College Movement*

"One of the best monthlies the Labour Movement possesses."

The Challenge, April, 1923

Monthly, 48 pages 6d.

PLEBS LEAGUE,

162a Buckingham Palace Road,
London, S.W. 1

HOW TO WIN THE RURAL AREAS

We are indebted to the "I.L.P. Chronicle" for permission to reproduce the following summary of some of the difficulties met with in the course of propaganda and organisation in the country districts, and some of the remedies that have been suggested therefor. The two statements are a summary of points in certain memos. that have been prepared for the use of the I.L.P., and they will be further discussed at a meeting of I.L.P. divisional organisers in November. The statements will be read with considerable interest by our readers, for, although prepared from the special standpoint of the Independent Labour Party, each point is of equal value to the Labour Party worker, on whose work the existence of a vigorous and successful I.L.P. movement reflects itself with benefit. We shall publish next month a special article on the present position in the country areas.

THE DIFFICULTIES.

1. The rural worker is generally well-known to his employer, living on the farm or in farm cottages, and thus in many parts of England subject to victimisation.

2. His status is very much reduced owing to the collapse of the Trade Union Organisation in many districts.

3. It is most difficult for the workers to keep up their financial obligations, as they are very poorly paid. Very often the I.L.P. suffers in comparison with the L.P. owing to the latter having an electoral organisation and lower subscriptions. Members are sometimes unable to contribute to both.

4. Hostility is experienced in most districts on the part of the police, or landowners, or religious bodies, and sometimes of all three.

5. In parts of Scotland, Wales, and Western England, whole tracts of country have never been touched by Socialist propaganda. The area to be covered is immense and the population scattered; in many districts there are even no villages—simply small hamlets and isolated cottages.

6. Speakers are sometimes unfamiliar with the habits, customs, and view-point of the people. Teaching is too political and not sufficiently

Socialist and missionary, as it was 15 to 20 years ago.

7. We have no clearly-defined national policy on agriculture.

8. The propaganda carried out is very often spasmodic and the results obtained are not co-ordinated or followed up.

9. We have at present no adequate machinery to keep groups or branches alive. We must be able to stimulate enthusiasm, give sustained help and continued inspiration to the few isolated members who are carrying on a hard fight under nearly hopeless conditions.

10. There is a great difficulty in getting officers and finding "live" secretaries.

11. Literature and existing pamphlets are too specialised on industrial problems, too political, and also too dear.

12. The country population, in Scotland particularly, is floating. This adds very materially to the difficulty of organising.

13. To sum up—Apart from uncertainty as to the type of propaganda, the great difficulty appears to be geographical. Speakers and propagandists cannot get round the area. Further, there are no central bodies from which work could radiate and back to which results could be brought for classification and co-ordination—to be followed by the development of further sustained efforts. This is at the back of all the suggestions received.

PROPOSED REMEDIES.

1. We must develop industrial organisation and so assist the agricultural worker to gain his freedom.

2. The N.A.C. must define a national policy and state same clearly.

3. We must produce special literature, not forgetting to present the Socialist case simply and clearly. Literature must sometimes be supplied free through the Divisional Council, and must deal not with industrial, but with large political, international and agricultural problems.

4. The countryside should be worked preferably from a branch in the nearest market town, this being used as a centre. Where this is difficult or impossible, smaller Federation areas should be formed.

5. Cyclists Corps should go out as flying columns, leaving literature, holding meetings and visiting struggling groups or branches. Parties of comrades could often go by bus or train to likely spots, doing the same thing.

6. Training classes for local speakers should be formed in the centres, a speaking plan should be prepared, and speakers should be trained in agricultural economics in relation to Socialism.

7. Where villages are too small to form a branch, individual members should be affiliated to the National Movement. Where there are a few sympathisers in a village, a group could be formed and these groups joined together into a county or district branch. Groups should have periodic inter-communication and meetings to keep alive their enthusiasm.

8. Where no central town exists, as in parts of Scotland, one or two vans might be used. The initial cost of vans would devolve upon the I.L.P., but running expenses could probably be made good by the local federations.

9. Social meetings in winter and summer outing of groups should be arranged.

10. Voluntary propagandists when visiting a village or district for holidays or other purposes, should be requested to inform Head Office or the Divisional Council with a view to arranging meetings.

11. National speakers should also be booked as often as possible by two or three districts together, and where national speakers are engaged in neighbouring industrial centres, some at least of the profits out of the meetings should be utilised for country purposes. The case of MacDonald at Aberdeen was cited, where £40 was so obtained and employed.

12. Our propagandists should know the agricultural case, but we must not make the mistake of treating the agricultural workers as a class apart. Show them the Socialist ideal. Treat them as citizens, not forgetting that there is no fundamental difference between them and town-dwellers. Reprint some of the earlier pamphlets and PREACH SOCIALISM.

13. Send to speakers notes from the Information Bureau dealing with agriculture.

(Concluded on page 20.)

LEGAL POINTS FOR ELECTION AGENTS.

IMPORTANT JUDGES' DECISIONS IN THE BERWICK PETITIONS.

On two points, at least, the decisions of the election judges in the recent Berwick petition are of considerable importance to election agents and candidates and they will undoubtedly be quoted in future cases. We give their lordships' words on these points *in extenso* in view of the importance of the question involved:

Mr. Justice Avory said, "Section 8 of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act of 1883 provides, '(1) Subject to such exception as may be allowed in pursuance of this Act, no sum shall be paid and no expense shall be incurred by a candidate at an election or his election agent, whether before, during, or after an election, on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of such election, in excess of any maximum amount in that behalf specified in the First Schedule to this Act. (2) Any candidate or election agent who knowingly acts in contravention of this section shall be guilty of an illegal practice.' Mr. Whiteley has contended that there has been no breach of this section in this case on the ground that it has not been proved that the election agent, Mr. Boal, knowingly acted in contravention of the section, and Mr. Whiteley's contention is that the agent must know when he makes a particular payment, or incurs a particular expense, that he is exceeding the maximum, and for the purpose of charging any offence against this section the date of the particular payment made, or expense incurred, must be fixed. If that contention were right, it would follow that a candidate or agent who keeps no accounts and incurs expenses recklessly on credit beyond the maximum, could never be brought within the section, because he has only to say, according to this contention, that at the time when he was making any particular payment, or incurring any particular expense, he was not aware of how much had already been paid, or what expense had been incurred. The present case is an illustration of the fallacy of this contention, for we have in the present case an election agent who admits that he kept no accounts which can properly be called accounts

of the expenses of this election. He obtained certain printed forms for the purpose, which he admits, contained upon them printed instructions for the guidance of election agents. One of them has been produced before us in the shape of a counterfoil order book, which on its cover has distinct instructions about the manner in which it should be kept. That counterfoil order book, although obtained, has never been entered up with the exception of a few items at the commencement of it. He kept no cash book, he kept no receipt book, and in enquiring into the amount of the expenses which, in fact, were incurred at this election, we are entirely dependent upon the vouchers or receipts which have been produced. There is no record by which they can be checked, no record to say what other accounts may have been paid, or what others might still be outstanding; and it is, in my view, impossible to say that in such a case it is open to the election agent to say he has not infringed this section, because you cannot point to any particular date when he made any particular payment, or incurred any particular expense, and showed that at that time he knew he was exceeding the maximum.

"On the other hand, I do not agree with the contention, which I think was put forward in this case, but which certainly appears in some of the text books, that the word 'knowingly' in this section is surplusage. It is certainly not a word to be treated as surplusage in any Act of Parliament if it can be avoided. In my opinion, the word 'knowingly' here means knowing at the time the payment is made, or the expense incurred, that it is on account, or in respect of the conduct or management of the election; and if, when the total of those expenses is added up, that total is in excess of the maximum, then the agent or candidate, as the case may be, has knowingly acted in contravention of the section. In answer to the difficulty pointed out by Mr. Whiteley of making any definite charge under this Section, in my opinion, it would be sufficient to say in making any such charge, 'That

between certain dates the agent knowingly incurred expenses on account of, or in respect of, the conduct of management of the election to the amount of — pounds, which amount was in fact in excess of the maximum.' That would be, in my view, a perfectly good formula for any such charge. Speaking generally of these Acts of Parliament, particularly of this Corrupt Practices Act, an illegal practice does not involve any *mens rea* in contra-distinction to a corrupt practice which always does involve a *mens rea*."

Mr. Justice Sankey said, "It is said that you cannot select one particular item and say that it was knowingly paid or incurred in excess of the maximum, because at the time it was incurred the maximum might not have been exceeded. In my view this is an entire misapprehension of the law. It is, as I think, necessary first to look at the total and not at the items."

SUB-AGENTS APPOINTMENTS.

The second point of law on which their lordships delivered judgment has an important bearing on the appointment of sub-agents.

Mr. Justice Avory said, "Now we come to paragraph III., upon which a further point of law arises. The particulars there are alleged to be particulars of payments made contrary to Section 28 of the Act. Section 28 provides 'Except as permitted by or in pursuance of this Act, no payment and no advance or deposit shall be made by a candidate at an election or by any agent on behalf of the candidate or by any other person at any time, whether before, during, or after such election, in respect of any expenses incurred on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of such election, otherwise than by or through the election agent of the candidate, whether acting in person or by a sub-agent.' Now these items are all items of payment, in fact, made by persons who, on the one side, are said to be sub-agents, and Mr. Matthews contends that they never were sub-agents, and therefore, if they were not sub-agents, the whole of these payments were in breach of Section 28. The contention of Mr. Matthews is that under Section 25, sub-agents are not such for the purposes of the Act unless and until their appointment is implemented by notice of their appointment given to the

Returning Officer under Sub-Section 3 of Section 25. Looking at Sub-Section 2 and Sub-Section 4 of that same Section, it appears to me that that contention cannot be supported. Sub-Section 3 contemplates that the notice to the Returning Officer may be given as late as one clear day before the poll. I quite agree with Mr. Matthews that that Section does not mean that you may not give it before, and obviously, in practice it will be given, and ought to be given, before; but, on the other hand, as I have said, the Act will be complied with if it is given one clear day only before the poll; and if the contention which is now put forward were sound, and such notice were given, only one clear day before the poll, there would be no liability for the acts or defaults of the sub-agents, except for any such as occurred on that one day or subsequently; that is to say, there would be no liability, according to this contention, for any act of a sub-agent before the date when the notice is given to the Returning Officer, because, according to this contention, he was not, in fact, a sub-agent or an agent.

"My view is that this is the wrong construction of this Section. I think the object of this notice under Sub-Section 3 is that the public, or the electors, may know, at all events, by that date, that the persons named were in fact sub-agents, so that they may trace back any responsibility for any act done by those persons. For these reasons I think that the particulars under paragraph III. cannot be supported, but undoubtedly this is a point of importance. It is admitted that there is no previous decision upon it, and the omission in this case to give any such notice certainly afforded a justification for putting forward these charges in the petition."

WHEN THE ELECTION BEGINS.

Inter alia, it is worth noting on the point as to when an election begins that both Mr. Justice Avory and Mr. Justice Sankey took as a guide the words of Lord M'Laren in the Elgin and Nairn case, 1895, in which he said, "There may be a vote adverse to the Ministry, and where from the moment when that vote is announced everyone is looking forward to a dissolution of Parliament, with a view to determining whether the Government of the day is

to continue to enjoy the confidence of the country, I should certainly hold that from that time the election had begun in the sense of the sections we are considering. I do not say that it may not be begun at an even earlier period. If, for example, a candidate, not proceeding upon any public and patent facts, but trusting to his own political sagacity, and looking round the political horizon, thinks that an election is imminent, and proceeds to institute what is called a canvass of the constituency, which he continues without intermission down to the election, it may very well be that in such a case his own judgment when it is necessary to attend to his electoral interests, shall be taken as fixing the commencement of that particular election."

LONDON AGENTS AT ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE

BY A LABOUR TRUSTEE.

On Saturday, July 14th, in glorious weather, the agents of the London and Home Counties District (or some of them) hied them to this veritable hive of pleasure for their monthly meeting. Tea was served in the Masonic Room, the business meeting being held immediately afterwards in the open-air on the spacious verandah overlooking the South Terrace. Here opportunity was taken to view the landscape. Situated on the northern heights outside London, the Palace commands a splendid view, extending southwards for many miles across and beyond London. St. Paul's Cathedral and other familiar landmarks were easily seen, and the Crystal Palace at the very edge of London on the south, with its roof of glittering glass. Between the two Palaces lies London—in the valley—London with all its wonderful life of gaiety for the idle, rich, and tragedy for the wage-earners. London, the workshop of the Labour Party agent, wherein the hard conditions of toil for apathetic humanity have no equal in any other part of the country.

The agents inspected the extensive property—the magnificent park with its wealth of bloom and foliage; the beautiful lake; the unrivalled green; the racecourse; the great hall running south to north, with its world-famed organ (wilfully destroyed internally during the military occupation,

and which the Government is being pressed to restore); the concert hall; the grove, with its open-air concert by the Fusiliers Band and popular professional vocalists; the ball room, with dancers circling to the music of the Royal Artillery Dance Band; the open-air cafes; and other items. These amusements were all at the disposal of the London agents, under the conductorship of one of their number who possessed the open-sesame. All that pleased the eye or delighted the ear or reposed the limbs was free for the asking, and for refreshment the charge was negligible.

Truly a wonderful time in a wonderful place, giving wonderful food for thought.

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

*A Monthly Technical
Journal devoted to the
organisation of Labour*

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Advertisement rates sent on application

EDITOR MANAGER:

H. DRINKWATER, Whittington, near
Worcester.

(Concluded from page 16.)

14. Use the county press carefully and intelligently.

15. Arrangements should be made to prevent clashing of meeting nights with L.P., also to have, if possible, different officers. Get leaflets to explain the difference between I.L.P. and the L.P.

16. In Scotland certain branches of the Trades Unions would allow I.L.P. propagandists to address meetings. T.U. would pay for halls.

17. Get names and addresses of T.U. officials in the country districts who are sympathetic to the I.L.P., and secure their co-operation.

18. Prepare lantern slides of Co-operative farms in Denmark and Holland, housing and similar subjects.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements under this heading are inserted at the special rate of twenty-four words for 2s., and 6d. for each additional six words, or less. Cash must accompany order. Three insertions are charged at the rate of two-and-a-half. Displayed advertisements, prepaid, are charged 4s. per inch, with special discount for a series.

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LABOUR WOMAN SPEAKER and ORGANISER seeks engagements or permanent engagement for the autumn. Expert politician and organiser. Terms on application to Violet Key Jones, 23 Montpelier Road, Twickenham.

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ISLE OF WIGHT. — Vegetarian Guest House for quiet country holidays; roomy house; garden, three acres; tennis; sea, three miles.—Mrs. Wynne, Godshill Park, I.W.

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DERBYSHIRE HILLS. Vegetarian Guest House for rest and fellowship amid beautiful scenery, £2 2s. per week. K. S. Ludlow, The Briars, Crich, near Matlock.

WORTHING. — Apartments vacant, after August 25th. Easy reach of sea and downs. Vegetarian Board.—Mrs. Hellier, 14, Browning Rd., Worthing.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Apartments with or without board.—Mrs. Clarke, 26, Olive Road.

LANCING HOLIDAY CAMP, near Brighton and Worthing. Also

NUTBOURNE HOLIDAY CAMP, near Sussex Coast and South Downs. Tents, huts, and house; large dining and social hut. Near rail and buses. — Apply Symington, Hambrook, Emsworth.

THE ENJOYABLE, HEALTHFUL HOLIDAY.—Write for prospectus of the Vegetarian Society's Summer Holiday Centre, to be held at the College, Filey-road, Scarborough, 28th July to 8th September. Fine views of sea and country; indoor and outdoor games.—Apply 39, Wilmslow Road, Rusholme, Manchester.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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